

**In the Claims**

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended): A fluid filter assembly including a filter frame member and a flow-through filter medium disposed therein comprising: a border frame member and a flow-through pleated crest filter medium sized to be disposed therein, said border frame member having an inner perimeter defining a flow-through passage to receive and support said filter medium, said filter medium being in the form of spaced pleated crests to provide spaced opposed upstream and downstream pleated crest sets; and, at least one longitudinally extending support strip of selected first support strength and preselectively controlled thickness and breadth to include spaced opposed side edges, said support strip extending adjacent at least one of said pleated crests of said filter medium in supporting relationship therewith, said support strip including a thin preselectively controlled thickness and breadth binding band of adhesive fastening material longitudinally extending the length of said support strip and having said breadth between said side edges of said support strip in primarily engaging and fastening relationship to said pleated crest of said pleated crest set, said support strip having a breadth of approximately zero point six two five (0.625) inch ("") and said binding band having a breadth of zero point zero nine (0.09) inch ("").

Claims 8-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended): A fluid filter assembly including a filter frame member and a flow-through filter medium disposed therein comprising: a border frame member and a flow-through pleated crest filter medium sized to be disposed therein, said border frame member having an

inner perimeter defining a flow-through passage to receive and support said filter medium, said filter medium being in the form of spaced pleated crests to provide spaced opposed upstream and downstream pleated crest sets; and, at least one longitudinally extending support strip of selected first support strength and preselectively controlled thickness and breadth to include spaced opposed side edges, said support strip extending adjacent at least one of said pleated crests of said filter medium in supporting relationship therewith, said support strip including a thin preselectively controlled thickness and breadth binding band of adhesive fastening material longitudinally extending the length of said support strip and having said breadth between said side edges of said support strip in primarily engaging and fastening relationship to said pleated crest of said pleated crest set, said filter medium material is dri-laid ~~The fluid filter frame assembly of Claim 11, said filter medium material having a composition by weight of approximately sixty-five (65) percent (%) three (3) denier polyester fiber and approximately thirty-five (35) percent (%) six (6) denier polyester fiber with a polyvinyl acetate binder comprising approximately forty (40) percent (%) of the fiber weight.~~

13. (Currently Amended): A fluid filter assembly including a filter frame member and a flow-through filter medium disposed therein comprising: a border frame member and a flow-through pleated crest filter medium sized to be disposed therein, said border frame member having an inner perimeter defining a flow-through passage to receive and support said filter medium, said filter medium being in the form of spaced pleated crests to provide spaced opposed upstream and downstream pleated crest sets; and, at least one longitudinally extending support strip of selected first support strength and preselectively controlled thickness and breadth to include spaced

opposed side edges, said support strip extending adjacent at least one of said pleated crests of said filter medium in supporting relationship therewith, said support strip including a thin preselectively controlled thickness and breadth binding band of adhesive fastening material longitudinally extending the length of said support strip and having said breadth between said side edges of said support strip in primarily engaging and fastening relationship to said pleated crest of said pleated crest set, said filter medium material is dri-laid ~~The fluid filter frame assembly of Claim 11, said filter medium~~ material having a composition by weight of approximately fifty (50) percent (%) four (4) denier bi-component fiber, approximately thirty-eight (38) percent (%) two point two five (2.25) denier polyester fiber and twelve (12) percent (%) fifteen (15) denier fiber.

14. (Currently Amended): A fluid filter assembly including a filter frame member and a flow-through filter medium disposed therein comprising: a border frame member and a flow-through pleated crest filter medium sized to be disposed therein, said border frame member having an inner perimeter defining a flow-through passage to receive and support said filter medium, said filter medium being in the form of spaced pleated crests to provide spaced opposed upstream and downstream pleated crest sets; and, at least one longitudinally extending support strip of selected first support strength and preselectively controlled thickness and breadth to include spaced opposed side edges, said support strip extending adjacent at least one of said pleated crests of said filter medium in supporting relationship therewith, said support strip including a thin preselectively controlled thickness and breadth binding band of adhesive fastening material longitudinally extending the length of said support strip and having said breadth between said

side edges of said support strip in primarily engaging and fastening relationship to said pleated crest of said pleated crest set, said filter medium material is dri-laid ~~The fluid filter frame assembly of Claim 11, said filter medium~~ material having a composition by weight of approximately sixty (60) percent (%) four (4) denier bi-component fiber, approximately twenty (20) percent (%) six (6) denier polyester fiber and twenty (20) percent (%) one (1) denier fiber.  
Claims 15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended): A fluid filter assembly including a filter frame member and a flow-through filter medium disposed therein comprising: a border frame member and a flow-through pleated crest filter medium sized to be disposed therein, said border frame member having an inner perimeter defining a flow-through passage to receive and support said filter medium, said filter medium being in the form of spaced pleated crests to provide spaced opposed upstream and downstream pleated crest sets; and, at least one longitudinally extending support strip of selected first support strength and preselectively controlled thickness and breadth to include spaced opposed side edges, said support strip extending adjacent at least one of said pleated crests of said filter medium in supporting relationship therewith, said support strip including a thin preselectively controlled thickness and breadth binding band of adhesive fastening material longitudinally extending the length of said support strip and having said breadth between said side edges of said support strip in primarily engaging and fastening relationship to said pleated crest of said pleated crest set ~~The fluid filter frame assembly of Claim 1,~~ said support strip extending transversely to said pleated crests with said pleated crests including selectively spaced embossed valleys sized to snugly receive said support strip.

20. (Original): The fluid filter frame assembly of Claim 19, said embossed valleys being aligned to receive said strip in embossing engagement therewith.

21. (Original): The fluid filter frame assembly of Claim 20, said embossed valleys being of a depth of approximately zero point five (0.05) inch ("") and a width of approximately zero point zero seven (0.07) inch ("").

22. (Previously Presented): An air filter frame assembly comprising: a rectangular cardboard frame member formed from a selected pliable firm material to include spaced pairs of opposed frame member sides of U-shaped cross-section joined to provide an inner perimeter defining flow-through passage; a pleated crest fibrous polyester filter material sized to be disposed in said flow-through passage with opposed spaced ends thereof adhesively engaging in fastened relation in said U-shaped frame member sides, said pleated fibrous crest filter material being by weight a composition selected from the group consisting of approximately sixty-five (65) percent (%) three (3) denier polyester fiber and approximately thirty-five (35) percent (%) six (6) denier polyester fiber; approximately fifty (50) percent (%) four (4) denier bi-component fiber, approximately thirty-eight (38) percent (%) two point two five (2.25) denier polyester fiber and twelve (12) percent (%) fifteen (15) denier fiber and; approximately sixty (60) percent (%) four (4) denier bi-component fiber, approximately twenty (20) percent (%) six (6) denier polyester fiber and twenty (20) percent (%) one (1) denier fiber, said pleat crests of said pleated fibrous material providing sets of spaced upstream and downstream spaced pleated crest sets with the fibers of said fibrous material being aligned and extending approximately transversely normal to said spaced pleated crests and in alignment with the direction of fluid stream flow

through said defined flow-through passage, said fibers being further treated with an acetic acid vinegar odor removal, said spaced pleated crest being of three fourth (3/4) inch ("") normal depth with approximately fourteen (14) and twelve (12) spaced pleats per twelve (12) inches (""); and at least two spaced longitudinally extending pleated crest support strips of like material as said opposed border frame members, said support strips being of preselectively controlled thickness and breadth and extending transversely across at least one of said spaced pleated crest sets with opposed ends thereof fastened to said spaced opposed border frame members, each of said support strips including spaced opposed side edges and having a thin longitudinally extending binding band of adhesive fastening material of preselectively controlled thickness and breadth and shape extending intermediate thereof to primarily engage in fastening relation with the pleated crests of said pleated crest set, each of said support strips being of a breadth of approximately zero point six two five (0.625) inch ("") and each longitudinally extending binding band having a breadth of zero point zero nine (0.09) inch ("").

Claims 23-25. (Canceled)